

parachutist. In January 1963, he was released from the army where he continued to further his education to become a teacher. From 1969 to 1970 Wangyee taught math and science at Samthong College. Later in the summer of 1970, Wangyee was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Defense as Captain for the Special Guerilla Force. He was appointed as the officer liaison and operation assistant with the American Special Officers, received leadership training, and graduated from the Lao National Army Staff School in Vientiane, Laos in 1972.

Wangyee received the Medal of Honor for excellent citizenship from the Majesty of King of Lao, Sri Savang Vathana. In 1973, he returned to the Second Military Region. He transitioned to Major General Yang Pao's team and was appointed as Chief of Personnel Bureau of the First Strike Division Infantry. A year later, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel by King Vathana and awarded the Medal of Honor for courage and nominated as the Chief of Staff for the military's Second Brigade Infantry.

After the fall of Laos in 1975, Wangyee and his family left to Nam Phong, Thailand for refuge. Wangyee saw a need to become an advocate for his people and became the Hmong Refugee Representative from 1977 to 1979. His top priorities were food, medical care, better living conditions and education. He was responsible for the communication with the United Nations and the United States. His advocacy helped lead the United States to begin accepting 25,000 refugees a year starting in 1978.

In 1979, Wangyee and his family left for political refuge in the United States and settled in Huntington Beach, California, then moved to Fresno, California in 1989, where he established the Lao Veterans of America. His many accomplishments include the establishment of the Lao Veterans Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery to honor Hmong and Lao veterans and their American advisors who served in defense of the Kingdom of Laos and U.S. National Security interests during the Vietnam War, and his advocacy of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000.

In the Central Valley, Wangyee was instrumental in the establishment of the Lao Hmong American War Memorial at the Fresno Superior Court. From 2000 to 2008, he was the "Volunteer Expert Team" for former Fresno Mayor Alan Autry. From 2005 to 2012, he was appointed by the Governor of California to be on the Board of Directors for the 21st District Agriculture of Fresno and the Big Fresno Fair.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Lieutenant Colonel Wangyee Vang. Wangyee was a symbol of hard work, dedication and commitment. His influence will live on in the Lao and Hmong community for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following roll call vote. Had

I been present for it, I would have voted as follows: Roll Call No. 191—YEA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GOOD

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on June 30, 2021 due to travel arrangements. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NO on Roll Call No. 197; NO on Roll Call No. 198; NO on Roll Call No. 199; NO on Roll Call No. 200; NO on Roll Call No. 201; YES on Roll Call No. 202; NO on Roll Call No. 203; and YES on Roll Call No. 204.

I oppose H. Res. 503, "Establishing a Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol" because politicizing justice undermines trust in the rule of law.

Since January 6th, I've called for the full prosecution of anyone who broke the law. The Department of Justice is already working on an investigation that has resulted in hundreds of arrests. In contrast Democrats have spent this time smearing elected Republicans, 74 million Trump voters, and undermining the efforts of our law enforcement. After one failed vote to create a similar commission, Speaker PELOSI is asking the House to vote for a partisan select committee. I oppose this political theater.